

Creation of Dig-Safe Education

With TAG Grant assistance from PHMSA

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Washington)

Inception

- *How did Dig Safe come about?
- *Spoke with private utility owners about having a uniform “base-level” training for excavators that provide them digging services.

Discovered A Need

- * The private utilities said they would be interested in promoting some safe digging standards and suggested we incorporate elements of the 811 “Dig-Law” into that training.
- * Currently, no formal training or licensing is required to excavate within public rights-of-ways, or easements.
- * NUCA recognized an industry need to provide basic training to excavators and worked up a potential solution- “DIG-SAFE” education and training.

CREATED “WIN-WIN” Solution

- * NUCA was already training its members in safe-digging practices, so why not offer this same type of training to non-members, with an emphasis on the new 811 law changes.
- * The stars seemed to “line-up” so the timing was right.

From Concept to Reality

- * NUCA of Washington needed additional funding to create, promote, and implement this program throughout the industry.
- * TAG Grant seemed “good-fit” to assist in getting the concept to reality

What Happened

- * PHMSA/TAG awarded Nuca of Washington \$50,000 to create and promote “Dig-Safe” education and training. NUCA may be eligible for another \$50,000 next year if we successfully continue with the training.
- * NUCA currently offers training all over the State about once or twice per month depending on demand.

Conclusion and Questions

- * To date, NUCA has trained over 350 people with the Dig-Safe materials. The typical cost is around \$90 per person. That cost reimburses NUCA for the trainers time, administrative expenses, training books, and forms as well as the “Hit-Kits” that are provided to each trainee.
- * The training is good for 2 years, so refresher courses will be available to address any industry or law changes as they are developed or implemented.